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MN PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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September 27, 2005

Notice of Application for a Minor Alteration Amendment to the Great River Energy (GRE) Permitted Route for a 115 Kilovolt (kV) High Voltage Transmission Line (HVTL) in Plymouth and Maple Grove (EQB Docket No. 03-65-TR-GRE PMG and PUC Docket No. ET2/TR-05-1495)

INTRODUCTION

On May 20, 2004, the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) issued a route permit to Great River Energy (GRE) for a 115 kilovolt (kV) high voltage transmission line (HVTL) in Plymouth and Maple Grove. On July 1, 2005, the EQB's authority for the permitting of energy facilities was transferred to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the EQB's Power Plant Siting staff was moved to the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC).

BACKGROUND

The PUC has received an application from GRE for a minor alteration to the above referenced route permit under the provisions of Minnesota Rule part 4400.3840. The application supplies information describing the permit amendment sought and reasons for the amendment.

The proposed permit amendment involves realignment of approximately 0.75 miles of the permitted 115 kV HVTL. GRE is requesting this amendment in response to a request from OPUS Northwest, LLC (OPUS), a developer in the Maple Grove area. OPUS is seeking the route modification to accommodate a large new retail development (Fountains at Arbor Lakes) proposed in that area. This platted development has been approved by the Maple Grove City Council.

Both the existing segment of HVTL line right-of-way as designated in the route permit and the new proposed segment of HVTL line right-of-way are located on land owned by OPUS. There is an existing 69 kV transmission line crossing the gravel pit which was going to be upgraded into a 115 kV HVTL under the route permit.

The proposed new segment alignment is outside the route designated by the approved permit. The permitted and proposed routes are shown on the map included with this public notice. The area of the OPUS proposed development is a large gravel pit area north of Interstate Highway 94 and south of 77th Avenue in Maple Grove. During the Certificate of Need and Route Permit processes, OPUS had not yet platted the proposed development. The currently permitted HVTL route passes across the middle of the development as platted.

The alternative route segment sought by GRE would be almost exactly the same length, but would go along the southern and eastern perimeter of the proposed development.

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Notice of this request is sent to persons on the general and project-specific mailing lists.

COMMENT PERIOD

The public has until 4:30 p.m. on October 17, 2005, to submit comments on this application. Comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198. Please refer to the docket number in all correspondence.

To ask questions or seek further information about this request, please contact George Johnson at (651) 296-2888 or at email address george.johnson@state.mn.us or visit <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>.

After the close of the comment period, the record on this matter will be prepared by DOC for a PUC decision on whether to approve or deny the request.

